

“NEIGHBORHOODS THAT WORK”

Award Recipients, 2001

Ward 2 – Ameal Moore

Category 1: Sycamore Highlands Community Group (Contact: Lynn Paulsen)

The Sycamore Highlands Community Group came together to address their concerns about the City increasing fees for landscape maintenance in their new community in Sycamore Canyon/Canyon Springs Neighborhood. Through their efforts, they were able to establish a relationship with City Hall, get their concerns about lack of landscape addressed, and now are endeavoring to have a park installed in the neighborhood. The neighborhood is a very cohesive and friendly group, mostly located near Abernathy Drive. They hope that their success at organizing and getting things done as well as making new friends will be spread throughout the greater neighborhood area.

Category 2: UC Riverside Neighborhood Association (Co-Chairs Letitia Pepper and Gurumantra Khalsa)

This neighborhood organization was formed in the 1997 to address issues dealing with code compliance and beautification. They hold regular neighborhood meetings and have expanded their focus to many neighborhood issues including updates on police activity, the refurbishment of Highland Park, traffic calming, and support for a community center. UC Riverside Neighborhood Association also holds social events such as their annual Luau and Halloween party and their summer “walk-about” on Friday nights. This organization remains one of Riverside’s most organized neighborhood associations and has built a close community. They have incorporated into their group a number of Neighborhood Watch groups and continue to seek new members to their group through outreach efforts such a newsletter and meeting reminder signs posted in front yards. UCR often brings in UCRNA to help guide them in their campus planning. They are, essentially, the voice of the neighborhood.

The neighborhood organization boundaries are the triangle created by Watkins Drive, Spruce Street, and Sugarloaf Mountain.

Category 3: Neighborhood Appreciation Day Committee/Michael Street Neighborhood (Chair: Revia Chandler)

The Neighborhood Appreciation Day Committee emerged over the last 20 years lead by Revia Chandler. It began as a barbeque and musical revue in Revia’s back yard to thank her Michael Street neighbors for helping her and her family through a difficult period. The event was such a success that it has become a yearly tradition. The Neighborhood Appreciation Day Committee puts on their Motown Review and Barbecue each year for the Michael Street neighborhood of about 200 people. The show incorporates the energy and talent of multiple generations and families who put in countless hours over a six-month period in preparation. Together they select the year’s music, choreograph the dancing, and help each other perfect their performances. Revia sews all of the costumes, and the neighborhood coordinates the planning of the barbecue. Year by year the show has gotten bigger and more professional. Last year they held it at Bobby Bonds Park auditorium and produced a video. They have kept a running diary over the years in scrap books where one can watch the neighborhood kids grow from youngsters to college students and beyond. Moms, Dads, and even grandparents perform and cook. Through their efforts, the neighborhood is extremely close and really watches out for each other. They exemplify the best of what it means to be a neighborhood, a family.

Their next Motown review will take place in June of 2003. The Neighborhood Appreciation Day Committee is in the process of acquiring non-profit status as a community-building group in order to help raise funds for what has become an increasingly expensive proposition. No fee is charged to the neighborhood for the show or the barbecue. The neighborhood boundaries, in general, are Michael Street in the Eastside neighborhood.